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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,162	11/21/2001	Yukio Morishige	Q67394	9610

7590 04/04/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

MACARTHUR, SYLVIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1763

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Applicant No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/989,162	MORISHIGE ET AL. 	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sylvia R MacArthur	1763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/533,244.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term “almost on one plane” is indefinite. Applicant’s criteria for “almost” is unclear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s cited prior art (ACPA) in view of English Translation of JP 11-3884.

4. Applicant’s cited prior art is disclosed on pages 1-3 of the specification of the present invention and illustrated on Fig. 4. The apparatus comprises a substrate 51, a holder 57, located coplanar with the substrate, gas retention chamber 53, laser-radiation means 58, and gas introduction means 54 (device to provide gas). The apparatus is further provided with trenches 55a which allows gas to discharge from the gas exhausting section 55 (discharges decomposition by-products). The gas window 52 is constructed so that there is a small clearance between the upper face of the substrate 51 and a lower face of the gas window 52. There is a step between the upper face of the substrate 51 and the upper face of the holder 57. The gas is suctioned from the

exhausting section 55c through the ring-shaped trench 55a and the gas exhausted from the gas retention chamber 53 is ejected.

ACPA fails to teach a step of preventing the gas introduced to the surface of the substrate from being influenced by outside air.

The English Translation of JP 11-3884 (pages 19-64) teaches a purge gas injector comprising a substrate, a body with an upward extending channel (substrate holding device) coplanar with the substrate, a top plate (cover), and a reflector plate (sheet). See pages 19-21 (claims 1-9) of the English translation of JP 11-3884. The substrate holding device is provided with a channel (trench) and a slit where the gas flows along the channels and opens the slit. This cover also functions as a means of preventing air from leaking into the system.

The motivation to provide the cover of JP-113884 is to prevent contamination for deposited ion particles from building up on the substrate surface or substrate holder.

Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to provide a cover in the system of ACPA, which serves to prevent leakage of air and contaminants into the system.

Conclusion

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sylvia R MacArthur whose telephone number is 703-306-5690. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F during the core hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin Utech at 308-3836. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9630 for regular communications and 703-872-9630 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Sylvia MacArthur
Sylvia R. MacArthur
April 2, 2003

MN 92
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700